

NSC BRIEFING

18 November 1955

THE BRAZILIAN SITUATION

I. Situation outwardly calm following 11 November coup but underlying tensions remain.

A. Cafe Filho still legally president.

1. he may resume office in few days, although his actions in past year suggest he dislikes responsibility.
2. Forces backing Acting President Ramos believe Cafe sympathetic to their opponents.
3. Consequently, if Cafe resumes office, Ramos backed by War Minister Lott may try to oust him.

B. Increased troop movement noted on 17 November in Rio de Janeiro.

C. Two important state governors have refused to pledge support to new government, although not now actively opposing it.

D. Some important armed forces officers continue disaffected.

II. All appointees of acting president Nereu Ramos are apparently supporters of president-elect Kubitschek, most are pro-US.

A. Labor minister Nelson Omega, however, is supporter of vice president-elect Goulart, has some links with Communist fronts, believed critical of US.

B. Pro-US finance minister retained.

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III. Communists arrested on 12 November numbered 18, are apparently still in custody.

A. Arrests made during flash meetings apparently implementing Communist Central Committee instruction to support General Lott's 11 November coup by all mass actions possible.